

Jazz/Hiphop Dance Syllabus – LPAP 157

Spring 2019

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“Jazz, itself is a feeling, an honest, personal feeling, inspired by soulful music. The source of jazz is inside. Jazz cannot be found in a pose, or a leap, or a bump, or a grind. It’s not a series of ‘jazz steps’. Jazz must be an honest expression of a musical soul. Jazz dance is moving with that feeling through a safe and effective technique. Never force an extension or back arch. Nothing should hurt. Technique is like tuning an instrument; learn to tune your body just right, so that when you go to play it, it’s beautiful. Never stop moving. Even when you are standing still, feel the movement inside.”

- Luigi, jazz dance legend

“Hip hop is very abstract, it’s very undefined. When you hear that drummer’s beat, you just got to go with it.”

-Rosie Perez, choreographer, dancer, actress

Course Description:

This is an introductory course geared towards those with little or no jazz/hip hop dance experience. Students can expect to learn the fundamentals of dance technique through warm ups, center and across the floor combinations. Students will also learn anatomical terms, jazz and hiphop dance history and dance vocabulary. Students are expected to attend class with an open mind and a willingness to actively participate every day.

Course Objectives:

- Development of correct dance technique, flexibility, strength, stamina, and transference of body weight.
- Improvement of neuromuscular coordination: precise control and placement of body parts.
- Improvement of movement memory: ability to pick up movements faster and remember them longer.
- To discover one’s own potential as a dancer and choreographer.

Grading:

Daily performance, participation, improvement in technique goals	70%
Final Project	20%
Dance Journal / Concert Write-Up	10%

Course Requirements

Participation: Attendance and full participation are critical to your success in this class. In the studio, each student will be evaluated according to his or her level of participation, focus and overall improvement of course objectives. Be aware that the instructor takes student level of involvement very seriously and is acutely aware of student engagement in class material. If you are having any type of issue that affects your class participation, please talk to me so I will not misread your body language. Our class meetings are very short so please be ready to dance at the beginning of class. This means changing of clothing needs to take place BEFORE class begins. If you get to class on time but then go change and return after we have started dancing, you will be marked late.

Final Project: At the end of the semester you will choreograph a dance with a group of classmates and perform it on the last day of class. Details about this assignment will be given out later.

Journal: Reflect on your semester in this class and discuss any of the following: new things have you learned about dance and/or about yourself; how the actual classes compared with what you thought the class would be about in the beginning; if you had fun or not; if you will be able to use your new skills and knowledge in your life, how you improved, etc. Journal should be typed, double-spaced, min. 300 words, submitted IN CLASS only. **No emailed copies accepted.**

Concert: Type up your reactions to the Rice Dance Theatre show, April 11, 12, 13 at 7:30 p.m. Pick one performance to attend. Shows are in the Rec. Dance theatre. It should be typed, double-spaced, min. 300 words, submitted IN CLASS only. **No emailed copies accepted.**

LPAPs are for credit:

All LPAPs are now for 1 credit hour, and they do count toward a student's GPA. All undergraduates have to take at least 1 LPAP in order to graduate.

Teacher bio: <http://www.uh.edu/cota/theatre-and-dance/about/faculty/nalett/>

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to actively participate while in attendance. During the course of the semester, students are allowed two “free” absences. Should a student miss an additional class, she/he will need to arrange to make up that missed class at a time and place that is agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate conversation with the instructor to discuss the make up, and an agreement must be reached within two weeks of the absence. If a student fails to make up a missed third or fourth class, his/her final grade will drop by one or two grade letters.

Students will not be allowed to make up more than two absences.

>>>>>>>>**Five total absences**, including those that were made up and no matter their circumstance, will result in a failing grade for the course. See instructor for make-up options.

****if you are sick and contagious, please do not come to class.** <<<<<<<<<<<

Honor Code Violations:

All students are expected to uphold their pledge to the Rice Honor Code. Any student caught cheating on an exam or written assignment will be reported to the Chair of the Honor Council, and an investigation will ensue. Any questions that you may have about what constitutes an honor code violation in this class can be directed to the instructor. Instructor Specifics: written work should be done in the student's own words.

ADA Policy Statement

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.

Tardiness

Entering class after I have called the roll is considered tardy. Two tardies equal an absence.

Class Observation Guidelines:

You may find yourself sitting out of a class if you are really late or if you are sick or injured (no more than 2 allowed per semester). Sitting out does not mean you are not involved in class. You will be taking notes on what we are doing. You are not allowed to sleep or use your phone or laptop or do work for another class while sitting out. If the instructor finds you doing any of these you will be asked to leave and marked as absent for that day.

Other Notes:

Please remember to bring water to class. Hydrating the body during a workout is necessary for optimum performance. No gum chewing for your own safety while dancing.

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. No phones, keys, change in pockets while dancing. Apple watches may not be used in class.

No recording of class with any electronic device is allowed without teacher's permission.

Spring 2019- Important Dates

Jan. 7	First Day, Discuss syllabus
Mar. 11-15	Spring Break – No class
Apr. 10	Journal DUE IN CLASS
Apr. 17	Last day of our class, final project performance, Written Concert Response DUE IN CLASS

Dress Code for Technique

Proper attire is required for Intro to Dance. Instructor checks and notates attire infractions every day. I will make comments on incorrect attire for the first week or so, but after that I will only make notes on my grade sheet. The dress code is active ALL SEMESTER. Your participation grade will drop for repeated dress code infractions.

You will not be able to dance and your participation grade will suffer if you wear inappropriate attire. Proper attire for dance technique is important so you have the best experience possible in class.

Bottoms: Capris, tights, dance pants, non-baggy sweats, stretchy pants – all of these must stay above ankle.

- *No jogging shorts, no loose, flared shorts.
- *No jeggings or leggings that look like jeans.
- *No booty shorts.
- *No shorts above mid-thigh.

Tops: Long tank tops or leotards or snug, form-fitting T-shirts - no bare stomachs, sides or backs or low-cut tops. Tops must be stretchy and allow movement easily. Nothing too big or baggy.

Footwear must be attained ASAP.

Soft, split sole jazz shoes or foot thongs **REQUIRED.**

- *No socks or stockings allowed.
- *No ballet shoes.

Appropriate undergarments/Misc: Every student must wear a leotard or skin hugging/stretchy/long tank underneath their outer clothes if their shirt doesn't cling.. No torso skin should be showing. No constant re-adjusting of clothing during movement. No large, dangling, loose jewelry. Hair must be completely secured away from face, no ponytails.

To purchase footwear, see below: Foot thongs are also called Footeez, Foot Undeez, or Dance Paws.



You can find them at HEB (under the name Toe-Kini) for about \$8.
Jazz shoes can be found at Academy Sports store or online at



www.discountdancesupply.com

You could also check Amazon or Ebay, but check shipping times on any online purchase.